

## THIS WEEK IN TEXAS HISTORY

January 2014 – Week 3

Air Date: January 19 – January 25 (Sunday – Saturday)



### TITLE: PILL PUSHER PENNANT

JANUARY 1839 AND TEXAS GETS FLAGGED.

THIS WEEK IN TEXAS HISTORY, BROUGHT TO YOU BY THIS STATION AND THE SAVE TEXAS HISTORY PROGRAM OF THE GENERAL LAND OFFICE.

JANUARY 25, 1839. HOUSTON. DURING THE REVOLUTION, SEVERAL FLAGS SERVED TO RALLY TEXANS TO INDEPENDENCE. BUT NOW, THE REPUBLIC OF TEXAS NEEDS A SINGLE BANNER TO CONFIRM IT AS A NATION.

SEVERAL DESIGNS ARE PROPOSED. ONE, BY STEPHEN F. AUSTIN, FEATURES GREEN AND WHITE STRIPES, A RED ENGLISH JACK, A BLAZING SUN, GEORGE WASHINGTON AND A LATIN INSCRIPTION!

BUT IT WAS A DESIGN BY TEXAN CHARLES STEWART THAT WINS THE DAY. STEWART, A SIGNER OF THE DECLARATION OF INDEPENDENCE AND DRUGGIST BY TRADE, SUGGESTED A SIMPLE FLAG OF RED AND WHITE, AND A SINGLE WHITE STAR IN A FIELD OF BLUE.

TODAY, THE PILL PUSHER'S PENNANT IS ADOPTED BY THE TEXAS CONGRESS AND REMAINS RECOGNIZABLE THE WORLD OVER.

THE TEXAS FLAG WAS APPROVED 175 YEARS AGO, THIS WEEK IN TEXAS HISTORY.

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Charles A. Spain, Jr., "FLAGS OF TEXAS," *Handbook of Texas Online* (<http://www.tshaonline.org/handbook/online/articles/msf01>), accessed January 09, 2014. Published by the Texas State Historical Association.

"State Flag Description," *Texas State Library and Archives Commission* (<https://www.tsl.texas.gov/ref/abouttx/flagdes.html>), accessed January 09, 2014.